

REMARKS

1. (status of claims) Claims 1-75 are pending in the present application. The present response amends claims 1-4, 29, 35, 36, 38, 39, and 50, adds claims 66-74, and cancels claims 5-28, 31-34, 37, 41-49, and 51-65. All amendments and cancellations have been made without prejudice. Applicants expressly reserve the right to present those claims in one or more related applications. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and new claims 68, 69, 70, and 74 can be found, for example, in Figure 1 and related portions of the specification. Support for new claims 66, 67, and 73 can be found on page 11 of the specification. Support for new claim 71 can be found in Figure 7 and related parts of the specification. Support for new claim 72 can be found in Figure 6 and related parts of the specification.

2. (35 USC § 112) In the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-4, 29, 30, 35, 36, 38-40, and 50 under 35 USC § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 1 has been amended to recite in part “*An electrode array body comprising: an array of electrodes; a mounting location; a reinforcing area surrounding the mounting location; and a strain relief slot.*” In light of this amendment Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 overcomes the 35 USC § 112 rejection. Furthermore, since claims 2-4, 29, 30, 35, 36, 38-40, and 50 either directly or indirectly depend on claim 1, they also satisfy to 35 USC § 112 in light of amended claim 1.

3. (35 USC § 103(a)) In the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-4, 29, 30, 35, 36, 38-40 and 50 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sauning (US 6,458,157) in view of Scribner (US 6,393,327) or Sauning in view of Chow (US 5,024,223). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as follows.

Amended claim 1 recites “*An electrode array body comprising: an array of electrodes; a mounting location; a reinforcing area surrounding the mounting location; and a strain relief slot,*”. Applicants submit that neither Sauning, Scribner, nor Chow alone or in combination teach the combination of features as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request removal of the 35 USC § 103(a) rejection of claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-4, 29, 30, 35, 36, 38-40 and 50, by virtue of their dependency, either directly or indirectly, on claim 1 also overcome the 35 USC § 103(a) rejection.

4. (Conclusion) Applicants respectfully contend that all conditions of patentability are met in the pending claims as amended. All amendments herein are made without prejudice. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the application to issue.

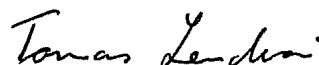
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 50-0922. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 50-0922.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

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(Date of Deposit)

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